

REMARKS

No claims have been amended or canceled. No new claims have been added. Accordingly, no listing of claims is required. Claims 1-7 and 9-17 are pending.

Claims 11-12 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant's representative is grateful for indication of allowable subject matter in claims 11-12.

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-10, and 13-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Tu (U.S. Patent No. 6,696,738). Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tu. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

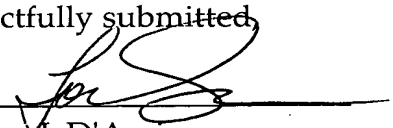
The instant application was filed on October 31, 2001, and further claims benefit of U.S. provisional application ser. no. 60/245,085 filed November 1, 2000. The Tu reference applied in the outstanding Office Action is a U.S. patent which issued on February 24, 2004. The Tu reference was filed on November 12, 2002. Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) date of the Tu reference is November 12, 2002. The Tu reference is not prior art to the instant application. Accordingly, the rejections to claims 1-7 and 9-10, and 13-17 should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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